



**CHAMBERS
IRELAND**
IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS

Excellence in Local Government Awards 2014



Comhshaoil, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

TIPPERARY CRYSTAL

Welcome

Chambers Ireland is unique among business organisations in that we have a presence in every major town in Ireland. It's for this reason that we understand the work done by Local Authorities and appreciate the vital role they play in all aspects of community. Whether it's through sport, shopping, culture or business, the Local Authority has an increasingly vital role to play in all of our lives.

This has been an unprecedented year of change for Local Government. The number of Local Authorities has reduced and a number of City and County Councils have merged. We have no doubt that these changes will strengthen Local Government across the country and ensure the highest level of public services.

The importance of working together is at the heart of Local Government whether that be with the local community, businesses or in partnership with other Local Authorities. Both Chambers Ireland and the Chamber Network have a strong relationship with Local Authorities which highlights the important link between local businesses and a strong and vibrant local community. We look forward to continuing to work with you all as the new model for local government evolves.

In partnership with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, these awards are our way of showing appreciation for the skills, efforts and enthusiasm that so often goes unrecognised.



Ian Talbot,
Chief Executive,
Chambers Ireland

Excellence in Local Government Awards Judging Panel

Round One

- Donal Enright, *Principal Officer, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government*
- Tony Lenehan, *Head of Stakeholder Engagement, Fáilte Ireland*
- Sean Ó'Riordáin, *Director, Sean Ó'Riordáin & Associates*
- Karen Smyth, *Head of Policy, Northern Ireland Local Government Agency*
- Geraldine Tallon, *Former Secretary General, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government*

Round Two

- Dónall Curtin, *Outgoing President, Chambers Ireland*
- Donal Enright, *Principal Officer, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government*
- Pat McLoughlin, *Consultant, PML Consulting*
- Yvonne McKenna, *Chief Executive, Gaisce - The President's Award*
- Tony O'Brien, *Chair, Chambers Ireland Local Government Policy Council*

Ratepayers and Local Government Policy Council

- Tony O'Brien, *Consultant TOB Associates (Chair of Policy Council)*
- Joe Allen, *Former PO, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government*
- Orlaith Borthwick, *Economist, Limerick Chamber*
- Hilary Haydon, *Joint Managing Partner, Hilary Haydon & Company*
- Tony Lambert, *Chief Executive, Fingal Chamber*
- Aebhric McGibney, *Director of Policy and Communications, Dublin Chamber*
- Rita McInerney, *Chief Executive, Ennis Chamber*
- Alma Murnane, *Policy and Research Manager, Cork Chamber*

Contents

Supporting Active Communities



Dublin City Council	5
Fingal County Council	6
Wexford County Council	7

Best Practice in Citizen Engagement



Ennis Town Council	21
Fingal County Council	22
Waterford County Council	23

Joint Local Authority Initiative



Dublin City Council	8
Fingal County Council	9
Monaghan, Meath & Louth County Councils	10

Supporting the Local Economy



Cork City Council	24
Cork County Council	25
Limerick City and County Council	26

SmarterTravel



Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	11
Fingal County Council	12
Limerick City and County Council	13

Health & Wellbeing



Cork City Council	27
Mayo County Council	28
South Dublin County Council	29
Wexford County Council	30

Supporting Tourism



Dublin City Council	14
Fingal County Council	15
Galway County Council	16
Leitrim County Council	17

Sustainable Environment



Cavan County Council	31
Galway County Council	32

Best Library Service



Fingal County Council	18
Kerry County Council	19
Mayo County Council	20

Local Authority Innovation



Clare Local Authorities	33
Limerick City and County Council	34
South Dublin County Council	35
Tipperary County Council	36

Sustaining the Arts



Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	37
Leitrim County Council	38
South Dublin County Council	39

Chambers Ireland would like to thank all of the kind sponsors for their involvement in the 2014 Excellence in Local Government Awards.



TIPPERARY CRYSTAL



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Dublin City Council

Boxing in the Community



Boxing in the Community is a joint partnership between Dublin City Council Sport and Recreation section and the Irish Amateur Boxing Association. The main initiative of the project is to increase awareness and participation in the sport of Boxing by developing key strategic boxing programmes and delivering these programmes in a safe and effective manner to all young people aged 10-21 years old. The aim is to use boxing as a tool to create proper channels for young people to learn boxing in a safe environment with highly qualified coaches and to engage them with all local boxing clubs. The project furthers these aims by educating and training local coaches and volunteers to deliver skilled and secured coaching in all clubs. Since its inception the programme has seen 114 bronze, 74 silver and 6 gold programmes with six boxing showcase exhibitions delivered in the City.



Fingal County Council

Fingal Hello Neighbour Programme



The Fingal Hello Neighbour Programme is a community engagement initiative of the Community Development Office of Fingal County Council. The Project involves building the capacity of a team of residents from the local Residents Group to call to neighbours to provide information on community groups/services, highlighting key activities taking place in the surrounding area and encouraging involvement in the Residents Group and other local initiatives. To carry out these visits the teams of residents receive training from the Community Development Office in the areas of – Effective Communication, Safety and Boundaries and Getting the Visits Up and Running. The neighbourhood visits while providing information etc. to the local community also serve to offer valuable feedback/ideas to the Residents Group enhancing their capacity to engage in future planning for the development of their estate.

Wexford County Council

On Our Own Ground: Wexford's Treasures, Parish by Parish



Communities throughout County Wexford's 47 parishes have worked together to produce a comprehensive record of local man-made and natural places of interest, parish by parish. The resulting resource is informing every aspect of local development. Co-ordinated by Wexford County Council's Public Libraries Service, parish boundaries have been agreed and drawn; maps have been produced electronically and on A3 sheets, distributed locally. Places and features of interest have been located, identified, photographed and described. The project template is structured to offer common access to information common to all parishes and to accommodate the variety across so many areas. To date, eighteen full and five part-parishes are published in a book. Each parish also has its own off-print "chapter" in magazine form. Two more volumes are planned. This total resource is being made available also electronically via website, social media, smart-phone and QR Code technology.



Dublin City Council

Children's Summer Reading Programme



Going Places with Books - Summer Reading Buzz is a children's reading challenge run in partnership between six local authority library services: Dublin City, South Dublin, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Fingal, Longford and Kildare. The reading challenge was based on a simple idea of challenge, recognition and reward around children's reading. The children received bee stamps on a membership card each time they read a library book. The overall aim of the programme was to encourage children to visit the library and keep reading over the summer months when they were on holidays from school. This joint initiative was a resounding success with over 7,000 children participating and with partners saving time and resources by working together to share knowledge, ideas and workloads. Partners also obtained value for money by ordering supplies as a single customer thus driving down unit costs due to economies of scale savings.

Fingal County Council

National Building Control Management System (BCMS)



Fingal County Council and the LGMA (Local Government Management Agency) jointly launched an on-line National BCMS (Building Control Management System). The BCMS represents the first local government service designed and built through the collaboration of a number of local authorities and the LGMA. The project also involved the collaboration with professional bodies in the building industry, such as the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, Engineers Ireland and the Construction Industry Federation. It provides architects (designers), surveyors and building owners with a facility to record and upload 'commencement notices', 'seven day notices' and supporting documentation. Over 80% of new building notifications have been made to local authorities in a completely electronic format since its launch. It is envisaged that the portal will facilitate access to additional services such as applications for Disability Access Certificates and applications for Fire Safety Certificates in the near future.



Monaghan, Meath & Louth County Councils

Action for Biodiversity



Action for Biodiversity is a three year project funded through the Special European Union Programme Body's INTERREG IVA funding and coordinated by East Border Region Ltd. The Action for Biodiversity initiative helped deliver biodiversity training and guidance to staff within ten selected local authorities. It is essential that each local authority understands its role in maintaining and promoting biodiversity, and that it has the necessary skills to do so. The initiative worked to promote a greater understanding of the term biodiversity through promotional campaigns and activities to help build awareness of why biodiversity matters and what people can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity locally. The results to date include delivery of over 80 conservation projects in the 10 local authority areas to help connect people with nature and protect important biodiversity sites on the ground, and trained local authority staff on why biodiversity matters. Additionally, the project has enhanced closer relations between non-governmental organizations, the community and local authorities in advancing the biodiversity agenda.

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council

County Cycle Map and Cycling Leaflets



To promote cycling and increase the number of people cycling in the County, a small foldable Cycle Map (opening to A1) and five cycling leaflets were developed. These full colour map and leaflets show existing and future cycle routes and provide knowledge at a local level. Desirable cycle routes are highlighted that are not on key traffic corridors and the map includes details of short cuts that are not well known. The map and leaflets also contains useful road safety and cycling information. A public consultation process helped inform the cycle map routing. This map and leaflet highlights Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's commitment to cycling and can be easily replicated by other City and County Councils around Ireland.



Fingal County Council

Walkability Analysis Tool – A Step in the Right Direction



The Walkability Analysis tool allows those interested in the walkable urban environment to investigate accessibility for citizens to key services provided by Fingal County Council. Users are guided stepwise by the tool in order to visualise walkable routes and/or walkable areas while reporting route distance and a count of the number of houses which fall within any area. The advanced functionality models the effect a path closure and/or adding a new path has on the area. All results are immediate, visual, location based and measured for decision makers and as such, form an integral part of smarter decision making process for planning or retro-fitting urban areas.

Limerick City and County Council

Limerick Smarter Travel



The Limerick Smarter Travel bid was a joint initiative by Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council in partnership with the University of Limerick. The main objective of the Limerick Smarter Travel (LST) Project is to connect the four key hubs of Limerick City and suburbs by the development and promotion of sustainable modes of transport for those living, working and studying in these areas. Mobility within and between hubs is hugely dependent on the car as the primary mode of transport. The LST Initiative hopes to get people from these hubs travelling in a more sustainable manner, by encouraging modal shift, which is possible with investment in alternative modes of transport and supporting infrastructure developments. The initiative is as much about behavioural change as it is infrastructural by works with workplaces, campuses, schools and communities to encourage and promote sustainable travel planning.



Dublin City Council

Finglas Heritage Trail



The Finglas Heritage Trail was developed over a number of years with the enthusiasm and support of local community groups and Dublin City Council. In June 2013 information panels / plaques were installed along the Trail, covering the history and development of Finglas since early Christian times. Finglas (from the Irish, Fionn Ghlas meaning Clear Stream) was the site of one of the most important early Christian monasteries in Ireland, founded around 560 AD by St. Canice who is remembered to this day in many of the local place names. A tour of the trail will take you on a journey through the early history of Finglas from Christian Saints, St. Patrick and St. Canice to a Viking Burial site which lay just to the west of the medieval church of St Canice.

Fingal County Council

Ireland V England Cricket Match



The international Ireland V England Cricket Match was the first of its kind to be held on Irish soil. Fingal County Council, Cricket Ireland, Fingal Dublin Chamber, Malahide Cricket Club and many other local bodies worked together in making this event a national and international success.

An all-Ireland sport, the match brought together fans from both north and south of the border, as well as from England. 10,000 people attended, many at a cricket match for the first time. Media coverage of the event was broadcast by Sky Broadcasting (Sky News, Sky Sports), RTÉ and BBC UK & Northern Ireland. During “downtime,” Sky Broadcasting used footage of Malahide and its environs to promote the area and Fingal as a tourist destination. Future plans for 2015 and beyond include more cricket matches and a music event for up to 10,000 people.



Galway County Council

STONE WALL WORKSHOP - Féile na gCloch, Inis Oírr



‘Féile na gCloch’ workshop is an annual event held at Inis Oírr on the fourth weekend of September. The event attracts 65 participants from all over the world. The numerous workshops held include a stone wall workshop, stone carving and stone lettering workshops. These events showcase an insight into how the soil was made on the island, how the walls are made and managed and their importance in the everyday life of the island for shelter, crops, animals and the homes of the island. The aim of this project is to create a sustainable heritage tourism initiative in partnership with the local community. With this project, participants receive a unique living heritage experience by engaging directly with local people and experts from across the world. Participants are able get an insight into how life was lived in the past and how life today is lived on the island.

Leitrim County Council

The Leitrim Ambassador Programme



Leitrim Ambassador Programme is an initiative that encourages people with Leitrim connections living abroad to recommend Leitrim as a place to visit to all of their friends, family, work colleagues and neighbours who plan to visit Ireland. It aims to encourage Leitrim people to spread the word about their country and all the many things that are there to see and do. The project targets Leitrim people living overseas not only encouraging them to return but to also spread the word about Leitrim as a place to visit to their friends, neighbours, families and work colleagues. To become an Ambassador, all participants have to do is sign up for the Leitrim County Council quarterly ezine, which keeps members informed on all that is happening in the county. Various social media channels are being used, such as Facebook and Twitter, to further the aims of this programme.



Fingal County Council

Fingal County Council, Libraries Division Digital Strategy



This project outlines Fingal Libraries' early and ongoing vision and strategy to embrace digital media in a sustainable way in order to broaden access, services and appeal and to remain a relevant and dynamic library service in the face of a growing, young, vibrant population and ever changing technological innovation and parallel expectations. The strategy includes a four stranded approach - to improve channels for communicating and generating conversation with all stakeholders; to develop digital collections including local history collections; to promote same and provide training on accessing it; to bridge the digital divide, both internally and externally; and to establish public libraries and their resources as significant to the aims of the National Digital Strategy, thereby promoting libraries as a key digital hub in the community.

Kerry County Council

Kerry Mobile Library Service



The Mobile Library service has been an integral part of the Kerry County Council library service since the year 2000. Each Mobile Library carries a wide range of book and non-book material, with a highly supported book request service also available. Staff build up a professional relationship with their readers as a result of the regular visits and the level of interaction is so beneficial for both the service, type of book stock available and the level of user satisfaction. The Mobile Library calls at each service point for 20 minutes, or longer if the readership justifies a longer stay. There has always been a special welcome for the elderly and people with disabilities on the Mobile Library. The Mobile Library service has provided an extra special dimension to the public library service provided throughout county Kerry.



Mayo County Council

Mayo Musical Instrument Lending Scheme



The project allows any citizen of County Mayo, aged 18 or under, borrow a musical instrument from any library in the county. The Mayo Musical Instrument Lending Scheme involved the establishment of a county wide instrument bank of over 400 instruments which can be borrowed through the county library service. The borrower simply pays a refundable deposit and a small rental fee and can then borrow an instrument for a six month period. The project began in June 2013 and to date demand has exceed supply for many instruments. The project also set up major music resources in the Mayo's two main towns Ballina and Castlebar. These comprise instruction books, scores, DVDs, CDs and software on all aspects of music form how-to-play to the history of the various genres of music. Access to these resources are available to all library branches in the county through the library inter lending scheme.

Ennis Town Council

Ennis 2020 – Planning Beyond Recession – A Framework for Ennis as Hub for Development



This project, an evidence based approach using community visioning as its foundation, is innovative and exciting. Launched in 2013, the Framework for Ennis as Hub for Development started in 2011 as a joint initiative between Ennis Town Council, University of Limerick and the Clare Active Citizenship Network. Underlying the initiative was the desire to find out what citizens, residents and users of Ennis Town wanted for the town over the next decade. The findings from the “Ennis 2020 –People, Place, Potential” report, formed the basis for the framework document, and will inform decisions on the future of Ennis in terms of community development, infrastructural projects and developing a sustainable local economy. The five action areas within the plan are: the town centre including older residential areas, the economy, employment and the retail sector, tourism and hospitality, quality of life, and overall infrastructure and sustainability.



Fingal County Council

Fingal County Libraries Early Years Literacy Strategy: The Youngest Ages Can Turn Pages



Best Practice in Citizen Engagement

Fingal County Libraries Early Years Literacy Strategy: The Youngest Ages Can Turn Pages was launched in November 2013 following extensive consultation with stakeholders in the community including crèches and schools, early childhood settings and further education agencies. The overall objective is to make a meaningful and sustainable difference to the literacy levels of children from birth to 6 years in Fingal by supporting the significant people in children's lives through the implementation of ten key actions. These include establishing baby book clubs in 6 branch libraries, the development and delivery of a Storybag module by students in the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown in local schools and crèches and the creation of leaflets on early listening, talking and reading. Through events such as storytelling, baby book clubs and family learning programmes this strategy benefits not only the target audience of young children and their parents but their extended families and communities too.

Waterford County Council

Waterford Comhairle na nÓg



Waterford Comhairle na nÓg is the statutory representative body of young people between the ages of 12 and 17 in Waterford. The Comhairle is made up of 50 members from across Waterford City and County. The Comhairle represent the voices and views of young people in County Waterford on various committees and groups such as the Waterford Task Group on Suicide and the Go Dungarvan Smarter Travel Youth Task Group. The Comhairle also run events and provide volunteers in support of local festivals like the West Waterford Festival of Food, The Sean Kelly Tour and the Dungarvan Maritime Festival. The Comhairle runs annual innovative projects focused on specific themes such as Mental Health (Mind Matters) and Cyber Bullying (The Cyber Code). Waterford Comhairle na nÓg is entirely youth led, operated by Waterford City & County Council. The Comhairle will input into the Council's upcoming Local Community Development Plan.



Cork City Council

'Women in Tech' – a joint initiative led by it@cork in association with Cork City Council



it@cork, European Tech Cluster is a leading not-for-profit independent business organization, representing the interests of the IT industry in Ireland. It is a unique blend of indigenous and international IT professionals, executives, multinationals, government leaders, public sector, academia, entrepreneurs, investors and the legal and financial professional services community joining together to drive thought leadership, collaboration and global strategic alliances. It currently represents over 300 member companies with over €250 billion revenue globally and over €1 billion in Ireland. it@cork and Cork City Council are actively working to encourage new role models for 'Women in Tech' by championing a new lunch time tech talk series which focuses on these role models and ensuring women are promoted in all key decision making activities.

Cork County Council

'Taste Cork' Regional Food Marketing Initiative



Recognising that Cork's vibrant food sector and community of innovative artisan food producers can offer amazing growth potential for the local economy, Cork County Council has been making significant investment into the support of this highly valuable industry. The Taste Cork initiative is an innovative cluster marketing and training initiative supported by Cork County Council, the Cork Local Enterprise Offices and Bord Bia. The Taste Cork brand allows producers to collaborate and create a greater impact than for Companies in a standalone environment. Taste Cork reinforces the image of County Cork as a centre for some of the world's finest food products. Whether, it's through training, networking or collective marketing, our key aim is to work together towards promoting and expanding our invaluable food sector.



Limerick City and County Council

Limerick City and County Council Business and Retail Initiative Scheme

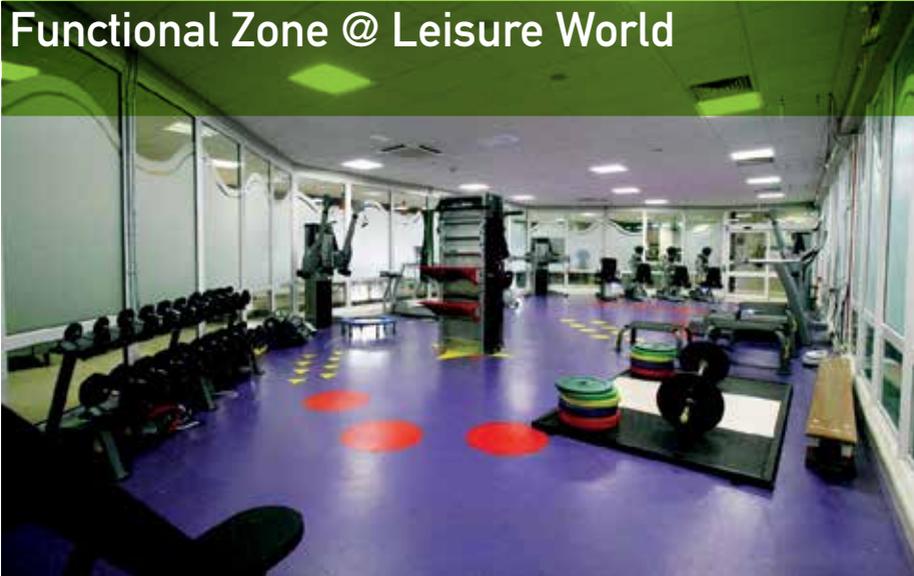


Supporting the Local Economy

The Limerick City & County Council Business and Retail Incentive Scheme promotes and supports the importance of city and town centres by providing grant aid for the occupation of vacant retail and business premises. Vacant retail and business premises are a key challenge for towns and cities throughout Ireland. The Business and Retail Incentive Scheme seeks to address this challenge by actively supporting the re-occupation of vacant premises through the provision of grant aid. Occupied retail and business premises are a pre-requisite to creating attractive, vibrant town and city centres. The Business and Retail Incentive Scheme is an important component in re-addressing the fortunes of our town and city centres, it seeks to bring life back to once empty units and re-imagine the fortunes of our town and City Centres for the wider local community as a whole.

Cork City Council

Functional Zone @ Leisure World



Recognizing that there is a need to provide a greater community healthcare service for people with physical disabilities or medical conditions, the Functional Zone at Leisure World has become a reality. The Functional Zone is a dedicated training area, with a range of fully accessible equipment that provides easy access and opportunity for people with specific exercise needs. People with physical disabilities or medical conditions are able to exercise under the supervision of an exercise professional, implementing a prescribed programme that has been developed in conjunction with a healthcare/medical professional. These catered exercises provide health and wellness benefits, along with an opportunity to become part of the community in a way that provides a feeling of achievement and progress.



Mayo County Council

Moy Sports Forum GAA Outreach Programme



This GAA Outreach Project was rolled out by Moy Sports Forum in partnership with Ballina Stephenites GAA club for children living in the Parkside Area of Ballina. The initiative was aimed at building closer relationships within the community by encouraging children from the Parkside to participate in Gaelic Games at their local GAA club. Parkside children were simply not partaking in GAA due to a previous history of not engaging and a sense of lack of trust developed over time. The Club and the Forum had identified the issue and devised this programme which comprised club coaches and members of Stephenites senior team coaching the children on a weekly basis for an 8 week pilot programme. The children were taught GAA skills and later invited to come and train at the Ballina Stephenites GAA Club grounds. An average of 20 children attended the weekly sessions and, upon completion of the outreach programme, over 10 children registered with Ballina Stephenites to continue playing on various underage teams.

South Dublin County Council

Social Inclusion through Community Gardening



Three Community Gardens were established to provide a space for people at risk of exclusion, with a particular focus on migrants, people with disabilities and those experiencing long term unemployment. They are a vulnerable group of people who are on the high risk scale for health issues. Horticultural Therapy is a preventative tool and there are proven benefits to the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing that accrues from gardening as a healing and therapeutic process. The psychological impact of gardening is that it is considered a serene occupation, an oasis of calm, a grounding experience. The process of gardening stimulates appetite and fosters a good night's sleep. It creates optimism, because you sow in hope to reap a harvest many months away. Gardening makes one philosophical in outlook; our groups have come to accept that not every seed germinates, perfection is a myth, but we as a whole we are flexible and can adapt to circumstances beyond our control.



Wexford Country Council

MIND YOURSELF: Wexford's Information and Self-Help Programme



Wexford's information and self-help programme has been active since 2009. A partnership between the local community, Wexford Libraries and the HSE, the 2013/2014 core mental health stream was combined with a focus on Nutrition and Exercise. A range of events and activities have given patients and their families assistance to manage short-term and long-term conditions, and recovery. Over twelve months, 23 events in libraries county-wide attracted 1,750 participants. These events, along with validated information sources & regular support meetings, encouraged loans of 6,000 items from libraries in 2013 as well as wide-ranging e-research. Wexford people are informed, involved, minding themselves & each other.

Cavan County Council

Citizen Engagement Strategy for the Domestic Wastewater Assessments (DWWA)

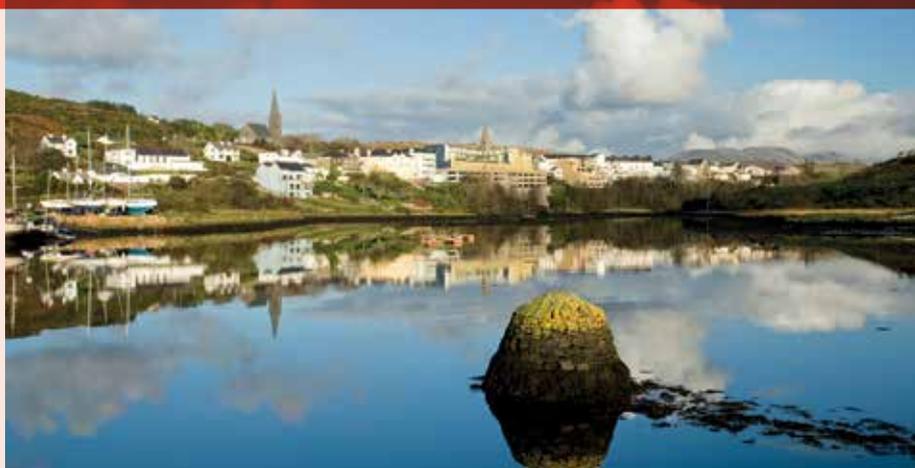


In accordance with the National Inspection Plan, Cavan County Council has rolled out a Citizen Engagement Strategy at local levels across County Cavan for the Domestic Wastewater Assessments (DWWA). Improving water quality when it is less than good status and maintaining water quality that is good and high status is the overall environmental strategy in terms of water quality for Cavan County Council in accordance with the Water Framework Directive. Projects and campaigns such as this citizen engagement strategy for domestic wastewater assessments highlights to the public the importance of having a properly functioning system which is regularly maintained. The more systems that are working correctly and are maintained regularly, the greater the likelihood of Cavan County Council achieving the targets set out in the Water Framework Directive whilst also reminding the public of their crucial role in protecting the environment as well as their health and that of the public. To date, 93% of systems have been registered in County Cavan.



Galway County Council

Golden Mile Competition and Calendar



The Golden Mile of Galway and Golden Mile Calendar is a countywide project which encourages rural communities to come together to identify a mile long stretch of road in their local area and to recognise and celebrate the elements that make up the rural roadways, stonewalls, flora and fauna in the community. A fundamental element of the project sees the local community being involved in presenting their mile for the competition, this may range from litter pick-ups, documenting the heritage or enhancing the mile through small works including suitable planting schemes, etc. These communities are also encouraged to visit each other's Golden Miles. The primary aim of the project is to make people more aware of the heritage, environment and the local distinctiveness of their place in the county and to encourage them to make this information available to a wide audience.

Clare Local Authorities

Management of Risk: An Opportunity for Continuous Improvement



Clare Local Authorities have focused on the development, implementation and management of frameworks for Enterprise Risk Management and Occupational Health and Safety to facilitate the effective identification, evaluation, treatment, monitoring and reporting of risk from 2011 to present date. This has resulted in Clare Local Authorities Occupational Health and Safety Management System being independently verified as best in class when it received the Local Authority Sector Award at the NISO Safety Awards in 2013 and the Clare County Fire and Rescue Service independently certified to the OHSAS 18001 Standard by the NSAI. This Framework, which is aligned with the ISO 31000 Standard, has allowed for the early identification of risk within the organisation and development of appropriate mitigation measures. These combined frameworks have led to improved outcomes for Clare Local Authorities to date and should lead to continuous improvement in risk management moving forward.



Limerick City and County Council

Creating new agile public governance model through the merger of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council



Limerick City and County Council are creating a new active public governance model to provide opportunity for public sector innovation, through the merger of Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council. They are not just merging but creating a new organisation for local government using an innovative change portfolio that will change the design and delivery of local government services for the future. The strategic objectives of this merger include: empowering the citizen to participate in the development of their community both rural and urban, a new model of local governance and service delivery and an environment for real economic development and job creation. The overall aim seeks to support the people of Limerick with a professional, proactive and accessible local government structure that is at the centre of a wider public service.

South Dublin County Council

Business Support Grant



South Dublin County Council has set aside €1.2m in business support grant for SMEs with a rates bill of less than €10,000 and who participate and complete the Economic Profiling Survey; which is being conducted by SDCC in conjunction with the South Dublin Chamber. The aims of this project are to incentivise and support SME's in South Dublin County. This fund is potentially open to 70% or 4,700 of the total commercial ratepayers and is being directed through the Local Enterprise Office. Benefits for these firms include a support payment of between €75 to €670 with more targeted policy-making and future support through the carrying out of a comprehensive economic profiling survey. This economic profiling survey will assist in understanding the nature and operation of the local economy and will aid in examining opportunities for business expansion and exporting.



Tipperary County Council

Tipperary County Data Unit



The Tipperary County Data Unit is an innovative process for the collection and analysis of county data and statistics. It is an interagency approach that provides the opportunity for better decision-making and service delivery. Agencies involved in the County Development Board recognized the benefit of sharing data and making it more accessible, along with the need to have information that is relevant to the services they provide throughout the county. The outcome of this process has resulted in the creation of an application which facilitates access to information, data, maps and statistics for County Tipperary which are timely and relevant. This application provides data to support economic development, community development and social inclusion. The process is an innovative and important original concept for Ireland and will have impact into the future shaping of County Tipperary and its national standing.

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council

Musical Memories



The “Musical Memories” choirs are open to all older people but are specifically supportive and welcoming to people affected by dementia. They are led by a professional choral director and take place on a weekly basis in community settings. The project is managed and funded by the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council’s /HSE Arts and Health Partnership and the Living Well with Dementia Project – Stillorgan/Blackrock. The main purpose of the choirs is to give people an opportunity to come together in a relaxed environment and mix socially through music. Music and singing help to lift mood, provide cognitive stimulation and support social interaction. The choirs are open to all older people. Family members and carers are encouraged to stay and are supported by a group of volunteers. Choir members and volunteers are from the local community. They are sited in two community settings, Deansgrange Library and St. Raphaela’s Convent, Stillorgan.



Leitrim County Council

A Shannon Story



As the finale to Carrick on Shannon's year long 400th anniversary celebrations, Leitrim County Council in association with Cold Chon Ltd. presented 'A Shannon Story' which combines street theatre, aerial dance, percussion and pixel mapping projected animation in one grand performance at The Dock, Carrick on Shannon in 2013. On-line video of the performance has been viewed and downloaded 100's of times from Studio North West TV and Vimeo. The first priority for this project was to provide a focal point for the community of Carrick on Shannon to come together to celebrate a culture and heritage that is all their own. The results of this project saw a collaboration with Ireland's leading street theatre company, aerial dance company and digital mapping company to having made a new type of production, rarely seen in Ireland, which combined the different performance and visual elements.

South Dublin County Council

Red Line Book Festival



The Red Line Book Festival is South Dublin Libraries' annual celebration of reading, culture and authors. Following the success of the first festival in 2012, the initiative has become a regular annual event in the programming of South Dublin Libraries and is one of the biggest cultural initiatives supported by South Dublin County Council. The initiative aims to give a positive experience of culture for the local community and to market South Dublin County as a rich and vibrant cultural hub both locally and nationally. The festival runs in October, taking place at various venues across the County. The programme also includes events for schools and TEDxTallaght, a TED event showcasing the best of Irish and international thinkers and innovators. In 2013, the festival featured 46 events attracting an audience of over 2,800 people.



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